THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The clearance for major and medium irrigation projects is given by the Planning Commission after obtaining the concurrence of the concerned Ministries| Departments. On their side, the Central Water Commission have completed appraisal of 21 major and medium irrigation schemes which were under examination with them on 1.1.1986 and these are yet to be cleared by the Planning Commission.

Artificial limbs for the physically handicapped

2854. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a break through in the artificial limbs technology and production and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether their price levels are such that these can be purchased by all the citizens; and

(c) whether such limbs are provided to those who are economically weak and if so, the details of the scheme enforced, if any?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Innovations in the manufacture of artificial limbs have taken place in the country from time to time. One such innovation has been the Jaipur Foot of which fitments are being done by a voluntary organisation in Rajasthan.

There has been considerable improvement in the production of artificial limbs by the Public Sector Undertaking, namely, the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur. Its production in 1986-87 is expected to be more than twice of the amount produced in the previous year. The products of this Company are of international standards.

(b) and (c) In view of the fact that a sizeable proportion of the disabled is too poor to afford purchase of the artificial limbs of standard quality, the Government has a scheme of 'Assistance to disabled persons for purchase of fitting of Aids|Appliances'. Aids and appliances costing between Rs. 25|- and Rs. 3000|- are provided free of cost to those handicapped persons whose income is upto Rs. 1,200|- per month and at half the price to persons whose income is between Rs. 1,200|- and 2,500|- per month. The Scheme includes supply of wheel chairs, hand or foot operated tricycles, calipers, artificial limbs; hearing aids, educational kits for the blind comprising braille-slates, braille-pocket frame abacus and measuring tapes for high school students; braille measuring devices like micrometers, calipers, etc.; for vocational trainees in the relevant trade. In addition, braille writer and tape-recorders for students enrolled in post-graduate classes are also given.

Supply of drinking water under Technology Mission

2855. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item that appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of 10th January, 1987 under the caption "P.M. to keep tab on technology mission", wherein it has been stated that first phase would cover 15,000 villages where drinking water would be provided; and

(b) if so, the names of the districts alongwith the names of respective